

**LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

DOUGLAS C. GILLESPIE, Sheriff



Partners with the Community

April 3, 2007

Mr. Mitchell Lazarus
Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth, PLC
1300 North 17th Street, 11th Floor
Arlington VA, 22209

Dear Mr. Lazarus:

in speaking with my colleagues from the Los Angeles Sheriffs Department, I became aware of the project to build a "Garage Door Overmaster." I believe this project is a joint venture between the Los Angeles Sheriffs Department, Scientific Applications International Corporation, and the Technical Support Working Group. The purpose of this device would be to allow law enforcement units to remotely open garage doors during a potentially deadly situation such as; hostage rescue, barricaded subject, and high-risk warrant service. Such a device would provide substantial tactical advantage to the law enforcement unit deploying and would greatly facilitate the safe and effective entry into buildings/homes without damaging the structure through physical force or the use of approved explosive breaching methods.

Currently, the most common method of entering a house with a barricaded suspect is through the doors or windows. This is particularly troublesome, not only because many houses have been barred to resist entry, but because such a predictable tactic provides suspects ample opportunity for countermeasures. An ability to enter through a garage is particularly appealing because they are almost never fortified and even opening the door requires a barricaded suspect to consider the potential for entry. When fully developed and appropriately employed, this type of a device would reduce the risk of injury, not only for our officers, but to hostages, bystanders, occupants of the house, and even the suspect.

It is my understanding that in order to effectively operate such a device that a waiver is required from the FCC to allow the device to operate for more than a few seconds duration. I, as a SWAT Tactical Commander, am in complete support of this waiver and believe any negative impacts to be extremely minimal. In particular, such a device would only be used by sworn police officers and only in those situations in which other methods of entry are too dangerous to employ. Consequently, the risk of "collateral damage" is exceptionally small.

If I may be of any assistance in this matter, please contact us at (702) 828-3410.

Sincerely,

Lt. Lawrence Burns
SWAT Tactical Commander

